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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Assistant Director at Virginia Tech Selected as Emerging Leader

ARLINGTON, Va.—Kathryne Drezek McConnell, assistant director of the Office of Assessment and Evaluation at Virginia Tech, has been recognized as an Emerging Leader by PDK International, a global association of education professionals.

The PDK Emerging Leader program recognizes top educators under age 40 from around the world for their leadership. A committee made up of PDK's past Emerging Leaders selected the 22 honorees from a competitive field of applicants, based on their outstanding professional accomplishments.

In addition to being honored at an event in Washington, D.C., honorees also have the opportunity to be published by PDK, apply for grants, and participate in PDK initiatives.

"Honoring these young leaders is one of PDK's most important initiatives," said William J. Bushaw, PDK International's executive director. "We know the future of education is in good hands with leaders like these making a difference in the lives of our students."

McConnell also serves as adjunct faculty for Virginia Tech's graduate program in educational psychology, teaching such courses as cognitive processes and instruction and sociocultural influences on learning. Her current research focuses on identifying innovative methods for assessing learning outcomes that are hard to quantify, such as the desire for lifelong learning, and assessing the impact of high-stakes accreditation and accountability efforts on institutional innovation, pedagogy, and student learning.

"My passion for understanding the complexities of student learning began in my early career as a high school social studies teacher," McConnell said. "It informs my work in assessment to help identify best practices in teaching and learning at the collegiate level today."

McConnell is a member of PDK International, American Educational Research Association, Association of American Colleges and Universities, Association for the Study of Higher Education, Association for Institutional Research, and Virginia Assessment Group.

For more information on PDK's 2012-2013 Class of Emerging Leaders, go to www.pdkemergingleaders.org.

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About PDK International

Founded in 1906, PDK International is a global association for professional educators. The organization's mission is to support education, particularly public education, as the cornerstone of democracy. More information is online at www.pdkintl.org.

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